

**“Falling With Style”**

President Jane welcomed 20 members, an honorary member (Roger James) and a guest who was Rachel Stocker making her first visit to the club.

The only member’s notice was Peter Phillips who reported on progress with Reverse Advent Boxes – still on course to collect 200. 11:00-12:00 at St. Augustine’s Parish Centre tomorrow (6<sup>th</sup>).

 The President welcomed Rachel and also trusted that the spectacular Super Moon had not affected anybody (werewolves were keeping their heads down).

Jane reported that Walid had no health problems to report and she welcomed back Secretary Andy after his operation whilst also thanking Ged Wiper for standing in. Jane also reported that she had delivered bouquets to recently widowed Pat Devonshire and Sylvia Western both of whom were extremely grateful. Other Christmas gifts are now being delivered and Paul Robinson was thanked for making the arrangements with Eliza Bloom’s.

The President’s week included:

- Wednesday: PR Group which discussed a social media campaign. She asked that all members share Facebook messages to raise our profile;
- Thursday: Community Service Committee – she praised chair Gary Blenkinsopp for handling a very busy agenda in around 40 minutes.
- She reiterated the Advent Box collection on Saturday and also wished the marshals well for Sunday who are supporting the hospice fun run.
- Bonus Ball winner was Fred Johnson.

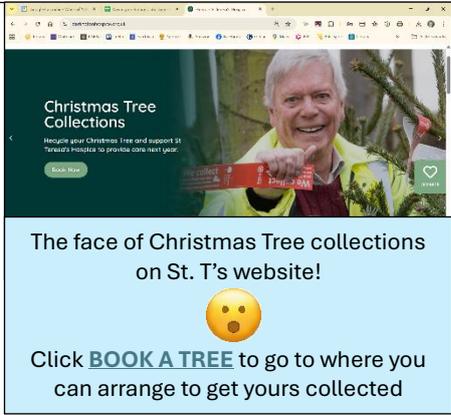
Secretary Andy confirmed that next week’s meeting would be at lunchtime in the presence of our RYLA candidates. The meeting will be in Central Hall with a limited menu and entrance will be through Bull Wynd.

Our speaker was Mike Daynes who was giving his “My Life So Far” talk as a newish member. He commented that he had previously been introduced as a knight due to his job at the Auckland Project....see below.



Mike is born and bred in Darlington and remembers as a child being interested in performing as well as a fascination with archaeology. The latter took him on digs to many parts of the country as a member of a young archaeologist group in Durham. But it was performing that grabbed him in the end starting as a Plum Pudding aged 5, he progressed in theatre including work experience, aged 14, in Liverpool.

Continued overleaf....



**Coming Soon**

**December**

- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>  
**10:30 St. T’s Festive Run**  
West Park Academy, DL2 2GF
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> (Central Hall)  
**12:15 Lunchtime Meeting**  
Speakers: RYLA Presentation  
Entrance through Bull Wynd
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>  
**19:30 Christmas Magic Concert**  
All Saints Church, Ravensdale Rd.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>  
**Christmas Message**  
**12:00 Central Hall**  
Details of booking overleaf  
Entrance through Bull Wynd



Friday 26<sup>th</sup>  
 **Boxing Day**   
**No meeting**  
**Merry Christmas Everybody**

**January**

- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> (Soft Play)  
**07:15 Breakfast Meeting**  
Entrance through main reception
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> (Central Hall)  
**12:15 Lunchtime Meeting**  
Entrance through Bull Wynd
- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>  
**Christmas Tree Collection**  
From 08:30 at Taylor’s Café,  
Lingfield Way, Darlington DL1 4PZ
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> (Soft Play)  
**07:15 Breakfast Meeting**  
Entrance through main reception
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> (Central Hall)  
**12:00 Austin Brooks Youth Day**  
Entrance through Bull Wynd
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January  
**Meal in aid of our Food Banks** at  
Darlington College – see overleaf
- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January  
**“Fifth Friday” – No meeting**

Dress Code is "Christmas"

**Christmas Message**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
from 12:00

Three speakers on "Christmas Memories"



Make menu choices on Event Hub – details below  
Also state names of others on table if known.  
Pay £27.50 on arrival  
Details: [CHRISTMAS MESSAGE MENU](#)



**Dolphin Centre**

From 12<sup>th</sup> December lunch meetings will be in Central Hall with a limited menu – entrance in Bull Wynd. Exceptions are Christmas Message and Youth Day. Breakfast meetings from 2<sup>nd</sup> January will be in Soft Play with a changed menu.

**"Falling With Style" continued**

His time in Liverpool showed him all aspects of the theatre process and he was especially excited by performance in less conventional settings. He auditioned for Harry Potter and for drama school which were not successful.

His maxim of "Falling With Style" has served him well with many fulfilling opportunities coming his way. These have included working with Jack Drum Arts and developing skills as a leader of Youth Theatres as well as receiving training in mental health support amongst many other specialisms.

After one disappointment he was drowning his sorrows in a pub when he met someone who had just failed their driving test – fourteen years on they are married with two children.

Now working as a Youth Theatre leader at the Hippodrome in Darlington and The Witham in Barnard Castle Mike is still realising his passion for performing and the arts....including being a knight in Bishop Auckland.

President Jane, Mike's mother-in-law, gave a warm and personal vote of thanks.



  
**Rotary**  
 Darlington  
*present*  
**DINNER**  
*A sumptuous repast!*  
 OF  
**STORE CUPBOARD STAPLES**  
 In aid of  
**THE DARLINGTON FOOD BANKS**  
**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
 At  
**DARLINGTON COLLEGE**

**Two Courses £22**  
(Main and a dessert)  
plus Cocktail or Mocktail  
on arrival

6.30pm  
for 7.00pm  
service



  
Please order tickets or on event hub (QR code above) from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December

  
**DARLINGTON ROTARY**  
 Presents  
*Music for the festive season*  
**DARLINGTON CONCERT BAND**  
**Christmas Magic** With Special Guests TLC Well-being Choir  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at 7.30pm  
**All Saint's Church**  
 Ravensdale Road, Darlington  
The programme includes seasonal music and audience carols played by a band of up to 35 musicians. The concert will be the band's 45th Christmas Concert all the proceeds of which have gone to charity. Once again this year we are supporting Darlington Rotary's local and international good causes.  
 ★ RAFFLE  
 ★ REFRESHMENTS  
**TICKETS £10 Children under 16 Free**  
Please order using Event Hub (QR Code right) or email [wiperg3@gmail.com](mailto:wiperg3@gmail.com) then pay by bank transfer to Club account or on door by cash, card or cheque


**Committee Meetings**

All 6pm at the Dolphin Centre unless stated

**January 6<sup>th</sup>: International Service**

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday bimonthly

**January 8<sup>th</sup>: Community Service**

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday monthly (not August)  
Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

**January 13<sup>th</sup>: Youth Service**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday bimonthly  
Darlington Rugby Club, Blackwell Meadows

**January 15<sup>th</sup>: Club Service**

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday bimonthly – venue TBA

**January 28<sup>th</sup>: PR Group**

4:30pm – schedule circulated to members of the group. Venue TBC

**January 28<sup>th</sup>: Club Council**

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday monthly

**Club Information**

- Website: [click here](#)
- Weekly Reports: [click here](#)
- Club Diary: [click here](#)
- Facebook: [click here](#)
- X: @darlrotary
- LinkedIn: #darlingtonrotary

**Christmas Cards**

order from Sue Campbell or Tony Marshall – only a few packs remaining!  
£6 per pack of 6 (2 of each card)



**Darlington Rotary Event Hub**

Club events can all be booked by clicking [EVENT HUB](#) or using this QR code.